

of pear. *Ulmus* and *Platanus* as food of the larva; and (Entom. corresp., 1869, p. 360) again describes the egg and imago. In Amer. entom., Nov. 1868, v. 1, p. 59, this species is mentioned as injuring oak and pear trees. Packard (Guide study ins., 1869, p. 228) quotes Harris' account of the habits of this species. Huggins (Amer. entom., Feb. 1870, v. 2, p. 128) found this insect ovipositing in an apple tree. Packard (Bull. '7. U. S. entom. comm., 1881, p. 105-106) figures the larva, which he states to attack *Ulmus*, *Quercus*, *Acer* and *Platanus*; and (*op. cit.*, p. 129) says, "In yellow birch at Providence." R. I. Harrington (Can. entom., Dec. 1882, v. 14, p. 225) gives some notes upon this species and adds *Fagus* to the food-plants.

*Crocus latitarsus* Norton (Proc. Entom. soc. Phil., 1862, v. 1, p. 199). Norton (*l.c.*) describes the male of this species and later (Trans. Amer. entom. soc., 1867, v. 1, p. 84) describes the female, and adds, "Bred by Mr. Walsh from larvae feeding on birch."

*Nyphidria attenuata* Norton (Proc. Entom. soc. Phil., 1862, v. 1, p. 144). Norton (*l.c.*, and Trans. Amer. entom. soc. 1869, v. 2, p. 354) describes the male of this species, and Patton (Can. entom., Jan. 1879, v. 11, p. 14-15) describes the female. Patton (*l.c.*) writes of his specimen, "Taken from a dead stick of *Betula nigra*," and mentions that *Rhyssa humida* is a parasite of this species.

NEW SOLVENT OF CHITIN.—Dr. Looss, assistant in the Zoological institute at Leipzig, has found that a solution of sodic hypochlorite (*eau de Labarraque* of the druggists), or of potassic hypochlorite (*eau de Javelle*), is a fine solvent for chitin in making microscopical preparations. He writes (*Zool. anzeiger*, 1 June 1885, jahrg. 8, p. 334):

"The liquid, as bought, completely dissolves, when heated, even the solidest and hardest chitinous parts of insects in a short time, first making them glass-like, transparent, and entirely colorless. If the liquid is diluted with six or seven times its volume of water, and the chitinous parts, either fresh or after they have been hardened, are put in it for twenty-four hours, or even longer according to size, the chitin will be altered, altho not noticeably externally; it loses much of its original brittleness,

and above all things is more permeable to staining solutions. The objects require, for complete staining greater or less time according to size, but the coloration is beautiful and distinct with either alcoholic or aqueous staining reagents. In our Institute *pediculidae* and *mallophaga* have been prepared by this method which show, besides their great transparency, complete and clear coloration. This is likewise the case with nematodes and their eggs. It is furthermore especially remarkable that by this treatment the underlying soft parts are entirely spared and admit studying upon them the finest structural relationships, such as the elementary structures of striate muscular fibres ('Muskelkästchen') and the nerve endings. Sections of bees' heads have been made which were as beautiful as could be desired. At all events this reagent deserves to be experimented with further."